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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA  
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10 Christopher Bernard Byers, )

11 Petitioner, )

12 vs. )

13 Charles Ryan, et al., )

14 Respondents. )  
15

No. CV-09-0823-PHX-PGR (LOA)

ORDER

16 Having reviewed *de novo* the Report and Recommendation of Magistrate  
17 Judge Anderson in light of Petitioners Objection to the Courts Report and  
18 Recommendation Report [sic] (Doc. 22) and the respondents' Response to  
19 Petitioner's Objections to the Report and Recommendation (Doc. 23), the Court  
20 finds that the petitioner's objections should be overruled as legally meritless and  
21 that the Magistrate Judge correctly determined that this action should be  
22 dismissed as time-barred as it was filed over four years after the expiration of the  
23 AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations.

24 The petitioner argues in his Objection that the Magistrate Judge erred in  
25 concluding that he is not entitled to have the limitations period equitably tolled.  
26 The AEDPA's statute of limitations is subject to equitable tolling only if the

1 prisoner shows (1) that he has been pursuing his rights with reasonable diligence,  
2 and (2) that some extraordinary circumstance stood in his way and prevented the  
3 timely filing of his federal habeas petition. Holland v. Florida, \_\_ U.S. \_\_, \_\_ S.Ct.  
4 \_\_, 2010 WL 2346549, at \*12 (June 14, 2010).<sup>1</sup> The Magistrate Judge concluded  
5 that the petitioner failed to meet either of these conditions and the Court concurs.<sup>2</sup>

6 The petitioner's cursory contention is that the untimeliness of his federal  
7 habeas petition resulted from misinformation on the limitations period given to  
8 him by his counsel and not from his own lack of diligence.<sup>3</sup> The Court is

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10 <sup>1</sup>  
11 The Court notes that it delayed the issuance of this Order pending the  
12 Supreme Court's decision in Holland v. Florida given that the main issue to be  
13 decided by the Supreme Court in that case was whether the AEDPA's limitations  
14 period was subject to the doctrine of equitable tolling.

15 <sup>2</sup>  
16 The Magistrate Judge correctly determined that the petitioner was not  
17 reasonably diligent in that he filed his federal habeas petition over four years after  
18 the limitations period had expired, and that he had allowed over two years to  
19 elapse between his first and second state petitions for post-conviction relief, and  
20 he had allowed more than a year to pass between the conclusion of his fourth  
21 state Rule 32 petition and the filing of his federal habeas petition.

22 <sup>3</sup>  
23 The petitioner's argument in his Objection is as follows:

24 The petitioner asserts that equitable tolling should be applied as  
25 the cause for his untimeliness was due to external forces, rather than  
26 a lack of diligence on his part. The petitioner was merely acting  
under advisement of his counsel, James Logan. Mr. Logan, in  
response to the petitioner[']s query about available Federal vehicles  
of review, advised him that under the (AEDPA) anyone who had a  
conviction prior to the 1996 (AEDPA) act, are exempt from the  
statute of limitations.

For such reasoning the petitioner was unaware that the statute of  
limitations actually applied to him. Otherwise, he would have filed a  
petition for writ of habeas corpus within the prescribed time frames.

1 unpersuaded by this argument because nothing the petitioner has presented in  
2 the record before the Court makes his attorney's mistake anything other than a  
3 garden variety type of attorney negligence that is insufficient to constitute an  
4 extraordinary circumstance warranting equitable tolling. As the Supreme Court  
5 has noted, "[w]e have previously held that a garden variety claim of excusable  
6 neglect ... such as a simple miscalculation that leads a lawyer to miss a filing  
7 deadline ... does not warrant equitable tolling." Holland v. Florida, 2010 WL  
8 2346549, at \*13 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). *Accord*,  
9 Lawrence v. Florida, 549 U.S. 327, 336-37, 127 S.Ct. 1079, 1085 (2007)  
10 ("Second, Lawrence argues that his counsel's mistake in miscalculating the  
11 [AEDPA's] limitations period entitles him to equitable tolling. If credited, this  
12 argument would essentially toll limitations periods for every person whose  
13 attorney missed a deadline. Attorney miscalculation is simply not sufficient to  
14 warrant equitable tolling, particularly in the postconviction context where  
15 prisoners have no constitutional right to counsel.") See *also*, Holland, 2010 WL  
16 2346549, at \*16-17 (Alito, J., concurring) (noting that an attorney's failure to do  
17 the requisite research to determine the applicable AEDPA deadline is insufficient  
18 to warrant equitable tolling as it is the type of attorney negligence that is  
19 constructively attributable to his prisoner client and is thus not a circumstance  
20 beyond the prisoner's control).

21 The Court also concludes that none of the other arguments raised by the  
22 petitioner in his Objection, such as that he is a *pro se* prisoner litigant, is legally  
23 sufficient to constitute an extraordinary circumstance warranting equitable tolling.

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25 The Court notes that missing from the petitioner's argument is any  
26 indication of when or how often he asked his counsel about the AEDPA filing  
deadline, what he did on his own to determine the filing deadline, etc.


1 Therefore,

2 IT IS ORDERED that the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation  
3 (Doc. 19) is accepted and adopted by the Court.

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the petitioner's Petition Under 28 U.S.C.  
5 § 2254 for a Writ of Habeas Corpus by a Person in State Custody is denied as  
6 time-barred and that this action is dismissed. The Clerk of the Court shall enter  
7 judgment accordingly.

8 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no certificate of appealability shall issue.

9 DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010.

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12 Paul G. Rosenblatt  
United States District Judge  
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